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~~TOP~~ SECRET

NSC BRIEFING 11 August 1954

BACKGROUND - BOMB LOAD VARIATIONS

I. By decreasing the Type 37's bomb load from 10 to 3 thousand lbs. and putting the 7 thousand lb. saving into fuel, the combat radius/range is slightly extended.

II. However, a 3,000 lb. nuclear weapon would be only marginally acceptable as a strategic weapon.

A. If economically constructed, a 3,000 lb. weapon could yield some 20KT--equal to the Nagasaki bomb.

B. If extravagant and inefficient use of nuclear material permitted, this yield could be boosted.

III. Uneconomical use of nuclear material in 1957 appears improbable, since the Soviet stockpile at that date will still be relatively modest.

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CONFIDENTIAL

NSC BRIEFING

11 August 1954

25X1X7

25X1X7

US B-52

Take off weight	390,000 lbs.
Bomb load	10,000 lbs.
Combat radius	3,160 nm.
Combat range	6,560 nm.
Target altitude	46,700 ft.
Maximum target speed	480 kts.

* "Basic Mission" contrasts with "Optimum Mission" in that all conditions assumed for an "Optimum Mission" are aimed at maximum possible fuel-load and therefore absolute maximum radius/range.